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AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) A method for processing continuous tone image data for imaging on a digital output device, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying advantageous tone levels in the binary representation of the image;

generating predetermined continuous tone data levels based on the identified advantageous tone levels; and

applying data transformation to the predetermined continuous tone data levels to purposefully select identified advantageous binary tone levels for enhancing a binary representation of the image data.

4. (Original) A method claimed in claim 3 wherein specific binary levels that result in full coverage of an area are applied via data transformation to continuous tone text data to assure full character formation in the binary representation.

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p. (Currently Amended) A method for processing continuous tone image data for imaging on a digital output device, the method comprising the steps of:
identifying at least one problematic tone level in the binary representation of the image;

identifying at least one non-problematic tone level in the binary representation of the image;

generating predetermined continuous tone levels based on the at least one identified problematic tone level; and

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generating predetermined continuous tone data levels based on the at least one identified non-problematic tone level; and

applying data transformation to cause the digital output device to replace the at least one problematic tone level in the binary representation of the image with output at the at least one non-problematic tone level in the binary representation of the image.

6. (Canceled)

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7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim [6] 3 wherein several adjacent levels in the predetermined continuous tone levels based on the at least one identified problematic tone level are assigned a same specific tone level that corresponds with a binary representation that avoids undesirable artifacts.

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8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim [6] 3 wherein specific binary levels that result in full coverage of an area are applied via data transformation to continuous tone text data to assure full character formation in the binary representation.